



AVAQMD

Vol. 10 No. 1 - Summer 2006

AIR WAVES

A publication of the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District

FRYXELL BIDS DISTRICT FAREWELL APCO RETIRES AFTER NINE YEARS AT THE HELM

After nearly 9 years at the helm of the AVAQMD, Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO) Charles "Chuck" Fryxell has called it a day, officially retiring on May 30, 2006.

Fryxell first announced his intentions during the District's March Governing Board meeting. Subsequently, the Board appointed Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer Eldon Heaston as Fryxell's replacement.

Fryxell leaves behind a legacy of cleaner air and common sense regulation for the Antelope Valley communities he served. Fryxell's trademark approach - whereby cooperative partnerships for cleaner air replaced traditionally adversarial relationships between air districts and regulated industry - resulted in AV businesses meeting or exceeding regulatory requirements and improving air quality. According to Michael Haro, Manager of Environmental Resources for Lockheed Martin

Aeronautics, "Chuck has a keen understanding of how business functions, and worked with us to resolve issues in a manner that provided a win-win solution for both parties."

In July of 1997, when the AVAQMD was created, Fryxell became the first APCO in the state to simultaneously oversee two separate air districts: the AVAQMD and its neighbor to the east, the Mojave Desert AQMD.

Fryxell's business-friendly philosophies have also been credited with fostering local economic development throughout the region. According to Frank Roberts, former Lancaster Mayor and past AVAQMD Governing Board chair, "Chuck Fryxell was a great addition to our staff ... and definitely was instrumental in making certain we served the people we were attracting for development, making clear that they were to abide by the rules and regulations



Chuck Fryxell

of our air quality district. Roberts added that "...we're going to miss the heck out of him."

Fryxell's other accomplishments included the
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*Eldon Heaston,
AVAQMD Executive Director*

In recognition of his exemplary track record as Deputy APCO, Eldon Heaston has been appointed Executive Director of the AVAQMD and the MDAQMD.

Heaston has been pivotal in cementing the District's reputation as one of the most business-friendly and accessible air agencies in the nation. In his previous capacity as Deputy APCO,

Heaston Named New AVAQMD Director

Heaston oversaw the day-to-day operations of the AVAQMD, including compliance, regulatory development, engineering, air monitoring and the small business assistance program.

Prior to his appointment as Deputy APCO, Heaston served as the MDAQMD's Environmental Services Manager, whereby he was responsible for the development and implementation of the District's AB 2588 Toxic "Hot Spots" Program, rule development, Health Risk Assessment/Modeling and State and Federal Implementation Plan development.

According to Heaston, he is looking forward to the challenge of leading the AVAQMD in the years to come. He added that "The District will continue to protect the health and welfare of our communities while working closely with local governments to balance a strong economic base that showcases the best in environmental

responsibility."

Heaston was born in Honolulu, Hawaii and grew up in Corpus Christi, Texas. Prior to joining the MDAQMD in 1991, Heaston spent more than eleven years working in the aerospace and petrochemical industries, where he held various positions in refinery operations, industrial hygiene and environmental management.

Heaston earned a Bachelor of Science degree from California State University, San Bernardino, where he currently serves as an adjunct faculty member. He is a founding member of the Mojave Desert Chapter of the Air & Waste Management Association (A&WMA). He has also served as Chair of A&WMA's West Coast Section and currently serves on its Board of Directors.

Heaston makes his home in Claremont, California, with his wife, Sharon, and their four



*Air Waves is a publication
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Eldon Heaston
Executive Director

Governing Board

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City of Palmdale



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City of Palmdale



Ken McCoy
Public Member



Ron D. Smith
City of Lancaster



*The Antelope Valley...
It's a Breath of Fresh Air!*

AIR WAVES

William J. "Pete" Knight Memorial AIRE Award Nominations Now Being Accepted

The AVAQMD is now soliciting nominations for its 2005/2006 William J. "Pete" Knight Memorial AIRE (Achievement In Reducing Emissions) Awards. Eligible candidates include local businesses, industries, schools, agencies, organizations and individuals who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to clean air through the development of voluntary air pollution reduction and/or prevention programs.

Nominated entities/projects must be located within the AVAQMD's jurisdictional boundaries, and nominated individuals must reside within the District's boundaries. Candidates may be self-nominated or nominated by a second party.

In recognition of sponsoring the legislation that created the Antelope Valley Air Pollution Control District, then upgraded it to an independent air quality management district, the AVAQMD's Governing Board renamed the annual AIRE Awards in memory of the late

Senator William J. "Pete" Knight.

In 2005, the late Senator— who has been referred to as the "Father of the AVAQMD" — was posthumously presented with a special AIRE Award in recognition of introducing Assembly Bill 2666 in 1997, which created a separate, locally-controlled air district for the Antelope Valley, and emancipated local businesses from costly and stifling regulations designed for the polluted, urban Los Angeles basin. Subsequently, the AVAQMD Governing Board also voted to rename the AVAQMD's top honor after the renowned aviation pioneer and longtime local legislator.

Nominations for the 2005/2006 awards must be postmarked or received at AVAQMD offices by Thursday, August 10 at 5:00 P.M. The AIRE Awards will be presented during National Pollution Prevention Week, September 17 through 23, 2006. The Nomination Packet is available online at <http://www.avaqmd.gov> or by calling the AVAQMD at (661) 723-8070.

FRYXELL BIDS DISTRICT FAREWELL

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formation of the Mojave Desert Air Basin, which grouped the AV with other regions with more similar air quality; establishment of the District's Achievement In Reducing Emissions Awards, which recognize environmentally conscious AV entities, redesignation of the Lancaster Clean Cities Coalition to the AV Clean Cities Coalition; and the evolution of the agency from an air pollution control district to a more autonomous

air quality management district.

Remarked Fryxell, "It's been a pleasure serving the businesses and communities of the Antelope Valley and I know I'm leaving the District in good hands with the appointment of Eldon." Fryxell plans to relocate to Texas, where he and his wife Linda look forward to spending quality time hosting their grandchildren, fishing and enjoying plenty of R&R.

COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

October 2005 – May 2006

Complaints	60
Inspections: Total Facilities	194+
Notices of Violation (NOVs)	46

CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY ACTIVITY

October 2005 – May 2006

Applications Processed	111
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AIR WAVES

AVAQMD Welcomes Ron Smith to Governing Board

The District extends a hearty welcome to Lancaster Councilman Ron Smith, our newest Governing Board Member. Smith was officially sworn in during the May Board meeting.



Smith was elected to the Lancaster City Council in April of 2006, after serving five years on the Lancaster Planning Commission. He is a retired Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff, and currently serves as a professor at Antelope Valley College. Smith has also served as Chairman for the Antelope Valley Crime Task Force, and for Citizen's for a Safer Community.

Smith is also an award winning wildlife artist who conducts nature walks at the Lancaster Prime Desert Woodlands Preserve. Together with his wife Jamie, they have owned a local graphic design business for over fourteen years.

Smith moved to Lancaster in 1987 with his wife Jamie, and they currently are raising their two children, Matthew and Katherine.

SUMMER ROADTRIP CHECKLIST

Here's a list of steps that Antelope Valley residents can take to help make their summer travels hassle-free and enjoyable, while saving money and protecting air quality.

Saving gas saves you money and helps the environment.

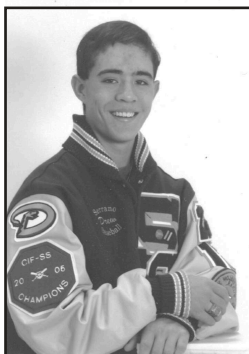
- Refuel when it's cool.
- Don't top off your tank.
- Don't let your car idle.
- Don't sit in traffic! Travel at times other than rush hour, if possible.
- Avoid long lines at drive-thrus.
- Avoid "jackrabbit" starts and "lead-foot" stops.
- Try sharing a ride or taking public transportation when you can.

Treat your car well and it will take care of you and the air.

- Keep your tires inflated to the recommended level.
- Get regular tune-ups.
- Make sure your gas cap closes tightly – replace it if it's old.
- Keep your air filter clean.
- Change the oil regularly, as recommended in your owner's manual.
- Make sure your car's converter is hooked up and working properly.

This information and more, can be found at the "It All Adds Up To Cleaner Air" website at <http://www.tialladdsup.gov>.

STUDENTS RECEIVE ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIPS COURTESY OF THE AVAQMD



Drew Laza

Two outstanding students from Serrano High School received the "green" on June 1, 2006 during Senior Awards Night. Seniors Drew Laza and Samantha Levine were each awarded \$500 as 2006 recipients of the AVAQMD's Environmental Scholarship Awards.

The AVAQMD Governing Board established the scholarship endowment fund in 2001. Funds for the program originate from fines collected by the AVAQMD through the settlement of air quality violations in the region. During the course of settling enforcement actions with a regulatory air agency, a violator may agree to an alternative form of penalty known as a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP), as part of the settlement. In accordance with policies set forth by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California EPA, environmental scholarships are one type of project which may be funded with penalty monies collected under such an agreement.

"This program exemplifies the AVAQMD's ongoing commitment to the community we serve, and provides environmental education opportunities for tomorrow's leaders," stated Eldon Heaston, AVAQMD Executive Director.

Laza plans to attend Cal Poly University of San Luis Obispo while majoring in Environmental Engineering and minoring in Business. "My desire is to enter a career as an Environmental Engineer in a managerial position running a company that is both profitable and environmentally friendly," stated Laza. Levine plans to attend Loyola Marymount University majoring in Civil Engineering, minoring in Environmental Engineering. "I feel that the Earth's resources are becoming limited and there is a need to research and develop alternative energy," Levine said. "I hope to develop those alternative sources as a future Environmental Engineer."



Samantha Levine

ATTENTION GAS STATION OWNER/OPERATORS:

Don't miss your chance to attend a free Phase I & II Vapor Recovery Workshop planned for September, date and time to be announced. The workshop will be sponsored & presented by the AVAQMD.

- KNOW the new laws.
- STAY in compliance.
- REDUCE air pollution.
- SAVE time & money.

Compliance with air quality laws can save you money. This workshop has been designed to acquaint owner/operators with vapor recovery regulations and how they can benefit from compliance.

Workshop Topics:

- Daily Inspection Requirements
- Review of Rule 461 (Vapor Recovery)
- Testing Requirements
- Avoiding Notices to Comply (N.T.C's) & Notices of Violation (N.O.V's)

For more information, contact Bret Banks at (661) 723-8070.

Thank You!

2005-2006 MEEC

Sponsoring Partners

The Mojave Environmental Education Consortium would like to thank all of its 2005-2006 sponsoring partners. Without their support, the program would not have grown to its current levels. Our sponsoring partners are truly **"The Wind Beneath Our Wings!"**

What is MEEC?

The Mojave Environmental Education Consortium (MEEC) is under the umbrella of the California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC), Region 10, whose combined mission is to link teachers with high quality environmental education (EE) resources to improve the environmental literacy of California's students.

Due to the success of its business partnerships, MEEC has succeeded in developing numerous projects that promote environmental protection, as well as providing free EE state standard-based curriculum to educators within school districts located in the Mojave Desert and the Antelope Valley regions.

Currently, MEEC has over 900 teachers utilizing its services, hosts six EE workshops annually, sponsors three essay contests each year for students and offers cash prizes, and also provides an environmental resource library for teachers.

This year the program presented its second MEEC Teacher of the Year Award, in conjunction with two Teacher of Excellence Awards, MEEC also offered teachers the opportunity to apply for field trip grants through the Enviro Bus Buck program. There were fourteen grants awarded to teachers within the two regions. All of these services are provided free of charge to MEEC's member teachers, thanks to the generosity of MEEC's sponsoring partners.



For information on how you can become a MEEC teacher, sponsoring partner, or an in-kind supporter, please call the Community Relations and Education Office of the Mojave Desert AQMD at (760) 245-1661 X6101.

Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority's
Recycled Water Program
A New Source of Water for Our Communities



Protect Yourself Against Poor Air Quality Use the Air Quality Index

During high ozone days, you can help protect your health simply by changing the time or intensity of your exercise, yard work or other strenuous activities. Use the Air Quality Index (AQI) and daily air quality forecasts to help you determine when you need to make changes.

The AQI is a color-coded scale that tells you steps you can take to reduce exposure to ozone or particulate pollution – and when.

- ① Green - No limitations.
- ② Yellow - Extremely sensitive people, especially those with respiratory diseases such as asthma, should consider limiting outdoor exertion.
- ③ Orange – Sensitive people, especially those with respiratory diseases such as asthma, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion.
- ④ Red - Sensitive people, especially those with respiratory diseases such as asthma, should avoid outdoor exertion, and everyone else should limit prolonged outdoor exertion during peak ozone periods.

Local air quality forecasts are available at the District's web site at www.avaqmd.ca.gov or by calling (661) 723-8070 and following the prompts.



AIR WAVES

MEEC Helps Lancaster Celebrate National Public Works Week



Essays and drawings were displayed in the Lancaster City Hall lobby during Public Works Week May, 21-27, 2006.

The billboard contest was open to students in grades K-5. The winner was Alicia Reyna, a third grader from Vista San Gabriel School. Alicia's poster — which emphasized the importance of water conservation — was featured on three billboards displayed throughout Lancaster. Alicia and two other finalists, Molly McGregor of Tierra Bonita North and Shahida Karimi of Monte Vista School, were rewarded for their efforts by receiving pizza parties for their classes.

The two winning essays came from a local middle school and high school. Arianna Chiriff of Cactus Middle School was awarded an iPod, and Anika Singh of Highland High School was the proud winner of a laptop computer.

This is the first time that the City of Lancaster has partnered with local schools to commemorate Public Works Week. Judging by the tremendous response from local students, it will not be the last!

The Mojave Environmental Education Consortium (MEEC) joined forces with the City of Lancaster to celebrate National Public Works Week 2006 between May 21 and 27. In observance of Public Works Week, the City invited Antelope Valley students to participate in a billboard design contest, along with an essay contest which was co-sponsored by MEEC.

The billboard contest was open to students in grades K-5. The winner was Alicia Reyna, a third grader from Vista San Gabriel School. Alicia's poster — which emphasized the importance of water conservation — was featured on three billboards displayed throughout Lancaster.



Pictured left to right are Arianna Chiriff of Cactus Middle School, Alicia Reyna of Vista San Gabriel School, Anika Singh of Highland High School, high school finalist Lindsay Sterk, Steve Dassler/City Engineer, and James Williams/Public Works Director, City of Lancaster. Essay contest winners enjoyed their moment in the spotlight as Dassler presented them each with a certificate of recognition during the May 23rd Lancaster City Council meeting.

MEEC Teacher Workshops Touch Down in the Antelope Valley

On December 6, 2005 MEEC held a teacher workshop at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics of Palmdale entitled "The Earth is in Our Hands: Preserving and Restoring Our High Desert Ecosystems." Over 40 educators attended the session, which was the first MEEC teacher workshop to be held in the Antelope Valley. Attendees participated in a tour of the Lockheed Martin Aerospace facility, and received free standards-based curriculum.

February 22nd was the date of the first teacher workshop to be held at Edwards AFB, the nation's premiere flight test center. The workshop - which was titled, "The Secret World of Reclaimed Water" - hosted educators from throughout the High Desert and the Antelope Valley. Attendees received a free "Project WET" curriculum guide, which was supplemented by a tour of the base's wastewater treatment plant.



Lockheed workshop attendees (left) discover how a bird's beak determines the types of food it can consume, during a hands on learning exercise.



Teachers tour the wastewater reclamation plant at Edwards AFB on February 22nd.

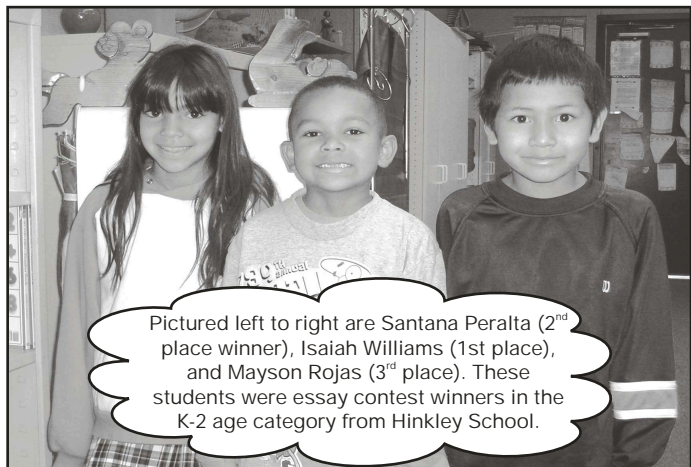
George Jung of Lockheed Martin Aeronautics (right) explains Lockheed's chemical usage recording system to teachers in one of the facility's many chemical control cribs during the workshop tour.



Educators learn about the different types of bacteria used in wastewater reclamation during a tour of the EAFB plant's lab.



Students Write About Used Oil Recycling



MEEC joined forces with the City of Lancaster and the City of Palmdale to help students understand the importance of used oil recycling through an essay contest held in February. The theme of the contest was "Travel the Highway of Used Oil." Over 200 essays were received in four grade categories: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Each 1st place recipient received \$50, 2nd place received \$25, and third place received \$15, plus a Certificate of Achievement. All essay contest winners read their essays during a presentation ceremony held at the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District.

The following are four of the essays:

Jalin Gordon, 1st place – Quartz Hill Elementary, Quartz Hill – 4th grade

Did you know you can recycle motor oil? Even if you think the oil is too dirty. It's very easy to do, simply look for the nearest community recycling location. It should be easy because there are more than 12,000 community recycling locations nationally. Besides you get paid to recycle something's and you help the ocean and everything that relies on it. I know that my nearest community recycling center would be Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center in Palmdale. If you throw away oil, even in a sealed container, it would still spill into the earth. Eventually it will work its way into the ocean and damages the ocean community.

Some people don't know what the benefits of recycling oil are. By reconditioning, reprocessing, and refining used motor oil. This resource can help conserve natural resources, save energy and save money. Two gallons of used motor oil can make enough electricity to power the average home for one day, cook 48 meals in a microwave, blow-dry a person's hair at least 216 times, vacuum a house 15 months or watch television for 180 hours, according to www.earth911.org.

Remember that motor oil is made for cars and trucks to drive on the highways. But if you don't recycle that oil the right way, it could damage the earth. The earth gives us a place to build highways. The least we could do for the earth is travel the highway of recycled oil.

Deepti Reddy, 1st Place – St. Timothy's Episcopal School, Apple Valley – 6th grade

Have you ever wondered about the phrase Oil Spoils Soil? This is a very true statement and... there is much more damage caused by used

oil. How can this damage be reduced: Recycling used motor oil is the solution to this problem.

It is amazing to think about how oil pollutes the soil. If we spill even one drop of oil onto the ground, it will spoil the soil. The oil from a single oil change (1 gallon) can ruin the taste of a million gallons of drinking water (1 part per million), the supply of fifty people for one year. Oil dumped on land reduces soil productivity. Concentrations of 50-100 parts per million of used motor oil can foul sewage treatment processes. Interestingly enough, this damage can be avoided.

Indeed, recycling used motor oil helps prevent oil polluting the soil. Used oil can be re-fined and reused into good-as-new lubricating oil. "Oil never wears out, it just gets dirty." It is easier and cheaper to recycle used oil than to make new oil from crude. One gallon of used oil can produce the same amount of motor oil as forty –two gallons of crude oil, and requires only 1/3 the energy. If recycled, the oil could save about ½ million barrels of crude oil each year, worth nearly \$10 million. Since recycling used motor oil has so many benefits, serious thought should be given and appropriate action must be taken to recycle used motor oil.

Oil spoils the soil. Recycling is the answer if you want to stop the damage caused by oil polluting the earth. In the U.S., less than 60% of used motor oil is recycled. I strongly feel that this percentage can be increased by more people doing more research and putting more effort in this field. By recycling used motor oil, the Earth would be a much better place.

Isaiah Williams, 1st place – Hinkley School, Hinkley – 1st grade

What is the highway of recycled oil? It's minerals that get dirty when it goes around the U.S.A. It started under the ground where the dinosaurs and plants died and made oil. Then the oil went to gas stations. People use it in their cars. It makes the motor go. This is how the minerals get dirty. So now we should recycle it.

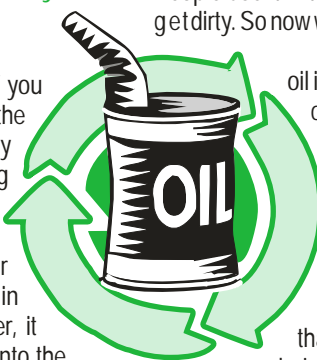
This is why recycling oil is important. If you do not use oil in your car, your car will not work. If you throw oil away, you can't use it again. If you throw away oil, you will kill plants and this about oil.

Jessica Jacuinde, 2nd place – Colombia Middle School, Adelanto – 7th grade

There are billions of cars on the road each day, and that's tons of motor oil that is being used. However, what is being done with the oil after it has been used? Some of the used motor oil is thrown onto the ground, tossed in trash cans, or into storm drains. By doing this, it contaminates and pollutes the soil, ground water, streams, air, and rivers. This does not help the environment, so it is absolutely necessary to recycle used motor oil.

There are many ways in which the environment can become hazardous by not recycling used motor oil. One way is if used motor oil is poured on to the ground it can seep into the soil and pollute the water supply making it dangerous for people. Also, it can contaminate the plants that provide us food and that could make us ill. Used motor oil should be recycled because they contain chemicals such as trace metals, chlorinated solvents, gasoline, polynuclear aromatic, hydrocarbons, glycols and PCBs that is harmful to the environment.

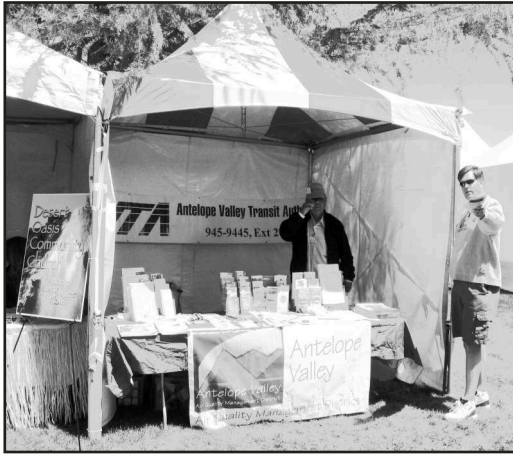
To help prevent the environment from becoming contaminated with used motor oil, we need to recycle it. By recycling it we can conserve this valuable resource and protect our environment. After draining the used motor oil, recycle it by giving it to a certified collection center. Traveling the highway on asphalt, made out of recycled motor oil, is one of the best ways to protect our environment.



AVTA, AQMD Join Forces to Educate the Community at 2006 Poppy Festival

Warm breezes replaced the winter chill, jubilant laughter filled the air, and poppies burst into bloom, blanketing hillsides in a sea of orange. The California Poppy Festival kicked off spring in the Antelope Valley from April 22nd through the 23rd, and the AVAQMD was there to help local residents become "air-aware".

Bret Banks, AVAQMD Operations Manager and Al Rangel from the Antelope Valley Transit Authority (right) shared a booth at the 2006 Poppy Festival to provide residents with information on avoiding traffic and preventing air



pollution by using public transportation. More than 1,000 festival visitors stopped by the AVTA/AVAQMD booth during the 2-day event.

P2 Week Organizers Help Prevent Pollution at the Source

"It's An Attitude!"

That's the message from coordinators of National Pollution Prevention Week (NP2W): preparing for September 17-23, 2006. Across the country, local governments, state and federal agencies, businesses, and others are teaming up to hold events that celebrate and promote the benefits of pollution prevention.

Pollution Prevention (or "P2" for short) is recognized as an effective tool for protecting the environment and the economy since it serves to **eliminate pollution** at the source before it is generated. "For industry, utilizing P2 techniques can result in more efficient, less-polluting industrial processes that improve competitiveness and the environment," said Kim Wilhelm with the California Department for Toxic Substances Control, one of the sponsors of P2 Week. "For the public, practicing P2 in the home, in the garden, and on the road through activities such as using alternative cleaning methods, purchasing an electric mower, and carpooling to work can help improve the quality of the local environment."

P2 Week is sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9, the Department of Toxic Substances Control, the Consortium of California Pollution Prevention Committees, and the Western Regional Pollution Prevention Network.

Each year during NP2W, the AVAQMD's highest honor — the William J. "Pete" Knight Memorial AIRE Award — is presented to local entities for making significant contributions to protecting air quality.

For more information on NP2W, visit the Office of Pollution Prevention and Technology Development's website at: www.dtsc.ca.gov/pollutionprevention/index.html.



Antelope Valley AQMD

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